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Applicant: D. Bianchi, *et al.* **Examiner:** To be assigned
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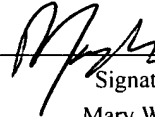
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicant respectfully requests entrance of this Preliminary Amendment into the U.S. national phase application that is being filed herewith.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows: **Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

This Amendment is believed to be in compliance with the Revised Amendment Format published in the Federal Register on June 30, 2003 (68 FR 38611), and therefore to be exempt from the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(a)-(d).